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THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

Magic Lantern Society of United States and Canada

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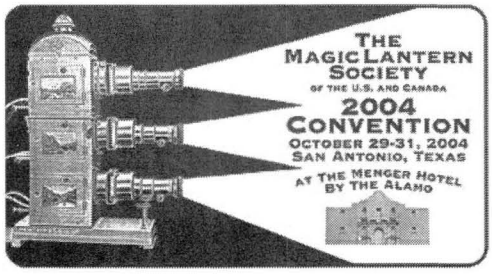
DON'T MISS THE NEXT CONVENTION

OCTOBER 29-31, 2004!


THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY
OF THE U.S. AND CANADA
2004 CONVENTION
OCTOBER 29-31, 2004
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
AT THE MENGER HOTEL BY THE ALAMO

The next Convention will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 29 and run to Sunday afternoon, October 31, 2004 at the historic (1859) Menger Hotel in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. The hotel is next to the Alamo, and near dozens of superb restaurants. This is the very hotel where Teddy Roosevelt organized the "Rough Riders;" where Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant both slept; where you too can join the ranks of the famous and infamous.

An extended visit to the Magic Lantern Castle will be one of many highlights of the Convention. The museum specializes in the American lantern, and is guaranteed to boggle the mind. It is certainly the largest collection of lantern-related material in the country, and probably the world.

Convention planner, Jack Judson, owner of The Magic Lantern Castle, announces there will be exciting activities planned for each evening, including a Thursday night social hour at the hotel. He also offers to be a tour consultant to those who plan to stay over and spend time in San Antonio after the Convention.

The Convention will also feature research reports, many short shows, a market, and an auction. A Mystery Banquet will be followed by "The Halloween Magic-Lantern Show!" performed by The American Magic-Lantern Theater, a professional magic-lantern company that National Public Radio calls "A Living National Treasure."

For detailed information, please contact our San Antonio Host, Jack Judson, by phone at 210-805-0011 or by email: castle@magiclanterns.org.

Mark your calendar now. Don't miss out!

INSIDE

- President's Message
- Jack-On-The-Screen
- Magic Lanterns in the Netherlands
- Photographic Lantern Slides

Past Conventions:

Since the first meeting in 1981, Conventions have been held in a variety of locations around the country: Rochester, NY (twice), Cleveland, OH (twice), Lexington, MA, Seattle, WA, San Antonio, TX (and in 2004), Mystic, CT, San Diego, CA, and Hollywood, CA.

Jack says a mailing will soon go out to all members with this information and more.

JACK-ON-THE-SCREEN

By David Evans

For many centuries it has been common practice in many towns and cities throughout Britain to celebrate May Day, the coming of summer, and better weather. Often such celebrations included parades, music, dancing in the street, and of course drunkeness and debauchery! Various trades took part in the parades, much as they do today with their specially constructed floats, etc. One of the few opportunities available to some trades to enjoy themselves was the May Day celebration.

Joseph Strutt, writing in 1801, describes a parade in London:

"The chimney-sweepers of London have also singled out the first of May for their festival; at which time they parade the streets in companies, disguised in various manners. Their dresses are usually decorated with gilt paper, and other mock fineries; they have their shovels and brushes (Fig. 1) in their hands, which they rattle one upon the other, and to this rough music they jump about in imitation of dancing. Some of the larger companies have a fiddler with them, and Jack-in-the-Green, as well as a Lord and Lady of the May, who follow the minstrel with great stateliness, and dance as occasion requires. The Jack-in-the-Green is a piece of pageantry consisting of a hollow frame of wood or wickerwork, made in the form of a sugarloaf, but open at the bottom, and sufficiently large and high to receive a man. The frame is covered with green leaves and bunches of flowers interwoven with each other, so that the man within may be completely concealed, who dances with his companions, and the populace are mightily pleased with the oddity of the moving pyramid."

figure 1

The earliest reference to Jack-in-the-Green appears to date from the middle of the eighteenth century, and he appears in various parts of Great Britain, and even overseas, for about 150 years.

William Hone, writing in 1825, describes Jack as he appeared in London:

"Here they are! The 'sweeps' are come! Here is the garland and the lord and lady! Poor fellows! This is their great festival. Their garland is a large cone of holly and ivy framed upon hoops, which gradually diminishes in size to an apex, whereon is sometimes a floral crown, knots of ribbons, or bunches of flowers; its sides are decorated in like manner; and within it is a man who walks unseen, and hence the garland has the semblance of a moving hillock of evergreens (Fig. 2).

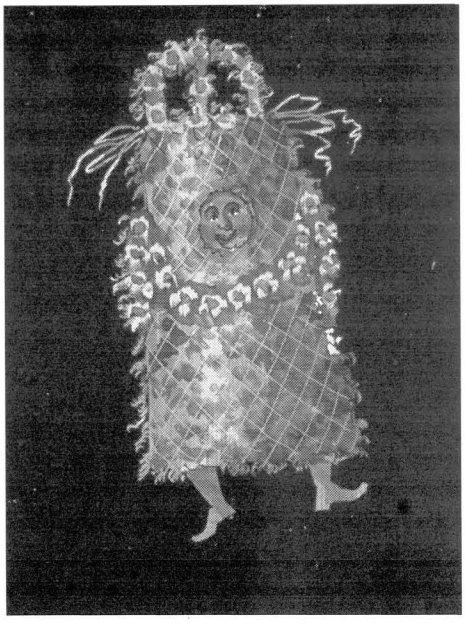


figure 2

The chimney-sweeps' jackets and hats are bedizened with embossed paper; sometimes they wear coronals of flowers in their heads; their black faces and legs are grotesquely coloured with Dutch-pink; their shovels are scored with this crimson pigment, interlaced with white chalk. Their lord and lady are magnificent indeed; the lord is always the tallest of the party, and selected from some other profession

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Correspondence should be addressed to:

Bob and Sue Hall
3321 114th Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
Hm: 253-851-8566
email: rbtdhall@aol.com

Officers

President	Ralph Shape
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to play this distinguished character: he wears a huge cocked hat, fringed with yellow or red feathers, or laced with gold paper: his coat is between that of the full court dress, and the laced coats of the footman of quality; in the breast he carries an immense bunch of flowers; his waistcoat is embroidered; his frill is enormous; his 'shorts' are satin, with past knee-buckles; his stockings silk with figured clocks; his shoes are dancing pumps, with large tawdry buckles; his hair is powdered, with a bag and rosette; he carries in his right hand a high cane with a shining metal knob, and in his left a handkerchief held by one corner, and of a colour once white (Fig. 3).

figure 3

His lady is sometimes a strapping girl, though usually a boy in female attire, indescribably flaunty and gaudy; her head in full dress; in her right hand a brass ladle, in her left a handkerchief like to my lord'd (Fig. 4).

figure 4

When the garland stops, my lord and lady exhibit their graces in a minuet de la cour, or some other grave movement; in a minute or two they quicken into a dance, which enables my lord to picture his conceptions of elegance; the curvilinear elevation of his arm, with his cane between his finger and thumb, is a courtly grace, corresponding with the stiff thrown-back position of his head, and the strait fall of the handkerchief in the other hand. My lady answers these inviting positions by equal dignity; they twirl and whirl in sight of each other, though on opposite sides of the dancing garland, to the continued clatter of the shovel and brush held by each capering member of the sooty tribe. The dance concluded, my lord and my lady interchange a bow and a curtsy; my lord flings up his cane-arm, displaces his magnificent hat with the other hand, and courteously bends, with imploring looks to spectators at the adjacent windows or in the street; the little sootikins hold up their shovels, my lady with outstretched arm presents the bowl of her ladle, and 'the smallest donations are gratefully received' by all the sable fraternity. This is the chimney-sweepers' London pageant on May Day 1825."

The procession was accompanied by milkmaids, also dressed up to the nines, often with 'garlands' on their heads. These were not what we associate with the word 'garland' today, but monstrous assemblies of silverwear, milk jugs, spoons and other cutlery, often borrowed from the local silversmith for the occasion. Milkmaids were associated with May Day celebrations from the earliest times—indeed, their 'garlands' increased in size with the passing years! The illustration below is probably a fairly early example.

figure 5

Bunters were another group of frolickers who appeared along with the hubbub. The bunter was 'A low, especially a low thieving, harlot' who was to be found frequently on the streets of London in the eighteenth century! An anonymous poem entitled 'May Day' of 1769 mentions:
'They imitate the Milk-maid's pride,
But, let the shape be set aside;
'Tis vile beyond compare.'

continued page 4

Jack-On-The-Screen continued

figure 6

In recent years, since the re-introduction of May Day as a public holiday, May Day parades have again increased in popularity, and Jack-in-the-Green is once more seen dancing with the rest.

The illustrations are taken from a pair of large format (425 mm x 125 mm - 16 3/4" x 5") panoramic slides probably dating from about 1800.

I am indebted to our friend Iona Opie for identifying Jack for me, and pointing me in the direction of the book *The Jack-in-the-Green* by the late Roy Judge, from which the above quotations are taken.

SOCIETY ELECTIONS 2004

By Bob Hall

Each year at the convention a major item of business during the annual meeting is the election of new officers for the coming biennium. Nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer are now open. As our meeting this year will not be until the end of October, nominations will be accepted through July 15, 2004.

Please mail all nominations to Past President Bob Hall, 3321 - 114th St. N.W., Gig Harbor, WA 98332. Or email rbtdhall@aol.com. Bob will contact all proposed candidates and those who accept nomination will be put on the ballot.

After the nominating period is closed, ballots will be mailed out in August with a deadline for their return of September 30. This should allow ample time for the mail to get through.

It is time for everyone to consider running for office. We need a broad representation of membership to lead us into the future and continue the effort to achieve our goals. And remember, self-nomination is an approved option.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LANTERN SLIDES

By Tom Rall

This report is about a mystery. The mystery involves a trip around the world and a diverse cast of characters. A common thread, perhaps not a plot, connects the cast, which includes several members of this society and many other people in far-flung continents.

One should be able immediately to guess, from the nature of this column, that the common element in the mystery is, yes, photographic lantern slides!

These particular slides were removed from upstairs closets in the Cleveland Heights, Ohio, home of Larry and Susan Rakow, who were graciously hosting, that June 21, 1998, the final event of our Cleveland convention, which Larry chaired.

Society members who were present that evening will remember that dozens of boxes, even old suitcases, full of heavy vintage slides, had been hefted, hand-to-many-hand, through a long fire bucket brigade type line of volunteers—from the closets, down the staircases, and out a side door to me, who packed them into my old van, a veteran of antiquing years, for the next day trip back to Virginia.

The transfer consummated a deal that had been struck before the convention, one which I feel quite sure satisfied Susan, if she loathes as does my

wife, Debi, a scarcity of residential storage space.

For many of the slides of our mystery, the trip home with me would turn out to be a relatively short journey; for remember this is a world circling story.

The negatives from which these slides were printed had been taken during one such "World Tour" by an American family in 1923. How long they had been in the Ohio closets and, particularly, where they had been previously is part of the mystery.

By the time they reached me they were strewn haphazardly among many boxes. It is probable that Larry never realized they were related. It took me several weeks of sorting to conclude that I was opening pearls from one family's photographic past.

Perhaps I should have reached that conclusion sooner as they were clearly a set, each slide identified in type or script on mostly orange and buff colored labels, which are uncommon label colors. And, as much as they photographed all the exotic places, they also took pictures of themselves at many stops throughout the trip.

Prior to the realization, I had put many into both my ten for $7.50 and higher priced inventories, from which I had already sold several. After, I began saving them in a single large box and also salvaged what I could find from the sales bins.

By the time I had finished sorting through the entirety of the estimated 4,000 Rakow slides some weeks later, my world tour box was packed. There must have been 200 slides in all.

They chronicled a fabulous journey. It started off in the Caribbean, which might possibly have included the site of a larger family reunion. And then the single family—Mom, Dad, Older Son (18?), Middle Daughter (14?), Younger Son (10?)—went on.

They stopped in England, Holland, and Switzerland, where they experienced the noted novelty of snow on the fourth of July. And they stopped in Spain, Madeira, Italy, Greece, the Holy Land (Bethlehem, Jordan, Galilee, Palestine), Japan (shortly after a devastating earthquake in August), China, Alaska, Banff, British Columbia, Oregon, Yellowstone, and Colorado.

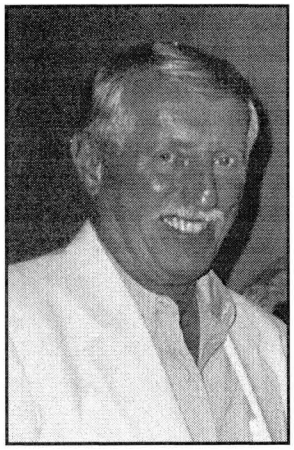
Since two or three slides bore the mask of Chicago firms, probably they returned to a Midwestern United States destination. Otherwise, there are few clues to help us in solving the major mystery.

Who was this family? Not once was a name identified. Because the labeler specifically identified a group of men working on a paving project in Palestine as "Russian Jews" and also visited an obscure Jewish community in China, the family might have been Jewish.

I am including a picture of this family with this report. Perhaps a member might remember something that would help solve our mystery. In the next column, I'll detail how the slides themselves have now traveled back around the world.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Ralph Shape



I have been given direct orders from the editors to produce this letter in less than one hour or else I will be removed from office. The thought is tempting. Over the last four years this President's letter has been one of the great challenges of life. I had looked forward to creating a masterpiece for this supposed last of my term of office. Now I find that since the convention will not be held until later this year and the election cannot be held until the annual meeting, this is not my last message to the membership.

Some comments are in order concerning the last issue of the *Gazette.* The Halls again demonstrated their talent by producing an excellent, informative publication. They may have a future in this business. I was happy to read about the Northeast Regional meeting and the interest in lanterns that was shown. Thanks to Debbie, Terry, Dick, and Sara for serving the purposes of the Society.

I hope all have read the excellent report by Jere Guldin. So many lanterns in so many movies. I was a great fan of Doris Day and have seen Moonlight Bay a half dozen times but never realized I was looking at magic lantern slides. I've since heard from others that the list is not complete.

Rick Martyna's show descriptions should encourage others to follow suit. He is introducing many to the fascination of a lantern show. I hope all will help him in his efforts to create a slide reading library. Thanks to Tom Rall for his report on the Photo History symposium held in Rochester, N.Y. Keep up the good work of sending in articles to the editors. It makes the job of creating an interesting publication easier.

In the last issue I mentioned receiving a request from Toronto for someone to demonstrate the use of magic lanterns to a convention of fans of the TV series "Road to America." I had no idea of the popularity of that program. Two of our members are great fans of the series and will communicate with the event sponsors. One has recorded the complete series of all of the programs, one of which contains the magic lantern scenes.

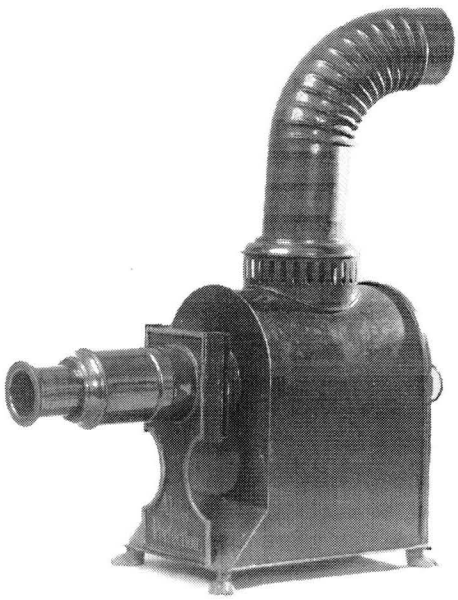
In May the Northwest group held its quarterly meeting. The Easterdays hosted 16 members which included long time member Bob Bishop. We were happy to see him doing well—slow—but well, and all look forward to his next "Last Picture Show."

Sadly, the passing of Nancy Bergh will be felt by all in the Society. She was a member of this group for many years and with her sister Margaret was very instrumental in the preservation of song slides and entertaining audiences with demonstrations of their use. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret.

Among the emails received this quarter was a request from a gentleman who is creating a documentary for Korean television about the evolution of the motion picture camera. He is looking for the most famous magic lantern slides for inclusion in his program. Jack Judson has taken on this challenge.

And finally, the Society wishes to congratulate Jim Robb. Jim's artistic talents have been recognized by the people of Canada. He was appointed by the Governor General as a member of the Order of Canada. Jim, a resident of the Yukon Territory for 48 years, "has brought the Yukon's unique past to life in his sketches, watercolour paintings, and photography."

Hope to see you all in San Antonio in October. May your lantern shine brightly throughout the year.



MAGIC LANTERN IN THE NETHERLANDS

From a phamphlet sent by Joke Sebus

Enoch Arden and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* the magic lantern

Programme, part 1

The first half of the show consists of Alfred Lord Tennyson's popular masterpiece of 1864 *Enoch Arden*. This is the dramatic story of a sailor who after being stranded on a desert island for years reaches home again to find his wife married to his best friend.

This moving epic poem inspired Richard Strauss to compose a piano part to accompany the story. The magic lantern slides for this story are partly live-model scenes; tablaux-vivants specially photographed and hand coloured in 1880, and the special effects are done with the original equipment.

Uncle Tom's Cabin and *Enoch Arden* through the magic lantern

Programme, part 2

After the intermission a performance will be given of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the famous 1852 story by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Included are songs as well as other music especially composed in and around 1880 to accompany the story.

The slides are a selection from a large collection of images that were made for this story in the 19th Century.

For this presentation we have chosen two stories centered around two main characters: little Eva (daughter of the owner of Uncle Tom) and Topsy (a young and obstinate little female slave). We have attempted to keep as close as possible the original 19th Century magic lantern adaptation.

The Magic Lantern Show: back to the olden days

The magic lantern was the most advanced 'audio-visual' means of the late 19th Century, being the forerunner of the cinema. Performances were given in small theatres where all the latest techniques were used to produce the most realistic of effects, including a range of spectacular optical tricks.

With the use of all kinds of ingenious machinery many striking images could be conjured up, by using for example more than one lantern, dissolving views could be projected—scenes which could change day into night, summer into winter, etc. And not only that; shows included a lot of music, so that performances would often resemble a music hall show or even a chamber opera.

Our show has all these ingredients: images, drama and music by well-known and less well-known composers.

Muckle Flugga Magic Lantern Players

The *Muckle Flugga Magic Lantern Players* formed in 1993 is a small company giving shows, producing new stories and new lantern slides. Muckle Flugga has also produced a few photo storybooks as well as a short documentary of a symphony orchestra. Vanessa Davids started as an assistant lanternist at the age of 16 and from that time on she has been collecting lanterns and slides. In 1993 with Els de Roon Hertoge she gave her first show called *Licht uit het Oosten* (The Light From the East). Els Muckle Flugga's language freak writes texts for new series and shows as well as singing and operating the lantern if required.

In 2005 *The Sad Tale of Marie and Rosa Lillico (or Where Jealousy May Lead)* the very first magic lantern series Muckle Flugga produced, will be published in a new book of the Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain: *Uses of the Lantern.*

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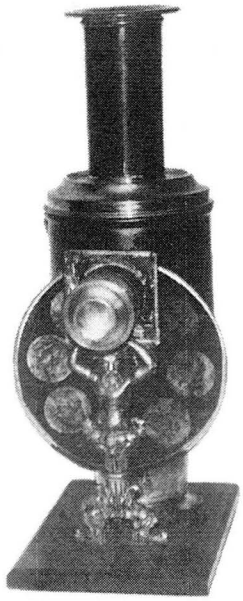
MAGIC LANTERN IN THE NETHERLANDS continued

Nico's Magic Lantern Museum

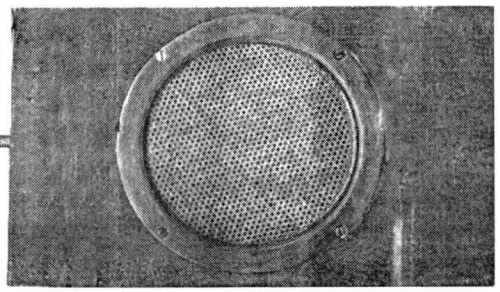
A beautiful permanent collection of magic lanterns and everything connected with them, was founded by Nico Brederoo and Henk Boelmans Kranenburg in 1997. After Nico Brederoo died in 2000 Henk, who is fascinated with the enormous technical possibilities, continues this wonderful initiative. The museum also has a small intimate theatre where shows are regularly given. Performances are suitable for all kinds of occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, team building sessions, and management meetings, as well as training courses and education. One of the successful productions made and performed by Nico's Toverlantaarnmuseum in 2002 was *De Waterreus van Scheveningen* (The Water Giant of Scheveningen).

Please contact us for more information and booking details at:
Scheherazade Art Productions
t.a.v. Vanessa Davids
Valeriusstraat 1a
2517 HM Den Haag
The Netherlands
email vwdavids@yahoo.com



WHAT IS AN EIDOTROPE

By Bob Hall



After reading Lindsay's "Helpful Hints" I had to get out my *Encyclopedia of the Magic Lantern* published by the European Society in 2001 and look up "Eidotrope. Here it is along with an illustration:

Eidotrope . . . form of moving pattern slide, similar in concept to the chromatrope, but using discs of pierced metal in place of painted glass. The eidotrope was devised by Sir Charles Wheatstone in 1866. A double pulley or rackwork mechanism rotated the concentric metal discs in opposite directions, and holes pierced in the discs interacted to allow light to pass through from the projecting lantern. Slow rotation would cause points of white light to describe geometric shapes on the screen, while faster rotation would create 'stellate flashings or scintillations,' according to the first published description of this type of slide by 'A Mere Phantom' in 1870, which also mentions the possibility of including tinted glass to give colour to the patterns. A related slide design of the 1870s was the kaleidotrope, which used a spiral spring to rotate and vibrate a similar metal disc. Hecht cites several late-19th-century references to the eidotrope in the catalogues of slide dealers such as Chadwick and Newton & Co., and it was described in an article on 'Scientific, Yet Amusing Slides' in the OMLJ as late as 1901. See also ASTROMETEROSCOPE.

Ref. 'A Mere Phanton' *The Magic Lantern: How to Buy and How to Use It*; Hecht 1993

HELPFUL HINTS

By Lindsay Lambert

1. For Practicing Lanternists

I was having difficulty re-stringing a monkey acrobat silhouette slide. The string would either slip after awhile, or the tiny knot which I had tied would come undone.

On an inspiration, I visited an electronics store and asked to see their stock of miniature drive belts for tape recorders. I found just the right one for the task. It may be 'cheating,' but I have an idea that 19th century lanternists would have used them if they had been available. (The longer belts may even work for pulley slides.)

Query: If we practice long enough, do we eventually get it right?

2. On Recyclying

Don't discard your old microwave oven without first removing the pierced metal sheet inside the door. Cut disks of this, and mount them in a double rackwork or pulley slide frame. You now have an Eidotrope!

AND SPEAKING OF THE MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY

(THE OTHER SOCIETY) . . . .

By Bob Hall

Now is a good time to consider dual membership in both Magic Lantern Societies. Our sister society is working on another scholarly tome with a working title "Uses of the Lantern."

They would like the book to cover four broad themes of lantern use: Religion/Temperance; Education/Science; Entertainment; and Modern uses (C20th/C21st).

Within these themes fall all sorts of sub-themes and topics (see below), and of course most of these will actually overlap between themes.

Apart from the Modern Uses theme, there are no historical limits on material, and we would like to give a full spectrum of lantern history between the 17th and 21st centuries.

There are no geographical limits either, and we think it is very important that the book should reflect the international nature of lantern history.

There will be up to 10 main illustrated keynote articles of around 3000-4000 words. These will define the main areas of interest, although they won't necessarily be 'surveys' or 'the history' of their subject—they may simply discuss an area of the subject in some depth.

Other topics of shorter length and varying form (reprints, illustrations, light-hearted pieces, shorter articles, interviews . . .) will fit around these, picking up and reflecting the main themes and overlapping between them. These items will give the book a sense of the diversity of lantern activities over the centuries—and will also make it entertaining, visual and, well, FUN!

Keynote articles (in no particular order):

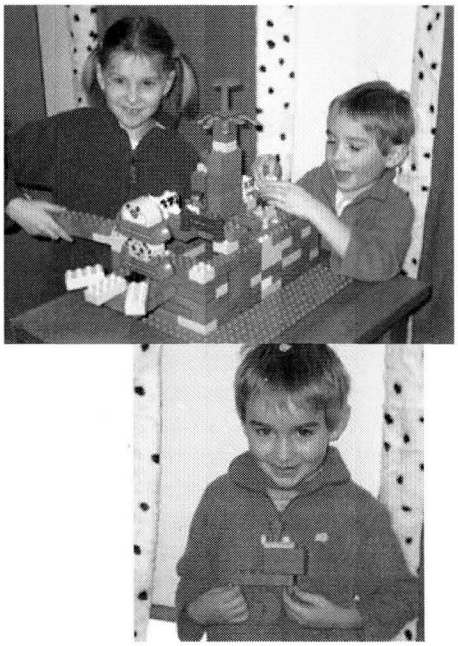
Current (1990s/2000s) lantern practice, future directions
The lantern in relation to magic
Different religious uses - e.g. Church Army v. Band of Hope
Projection in contemporary (modern) art
History of the lantern in the 20th century
The lantern in the home - domestic entertainment
The lantern in education/science
Travel, reporting the world, natural phenomena - the slide lecture
Political use of the lantern

Other topics - not all these will make it, and we invite other suggestions:

Amateur use: family slide collections
Amateur use: travel, 'holiday slides'
C19th/C20th professional lecture circuit
C19th home lantern use; Christmas
C20th home lantern use; slide shows
Cast study: 1790s showperson (Philidor/Philipstahl?)
Case study: 1820s showperson (Mr. Henry?)
Cast study: 1870s showperson
Case study: 1890s showperson (Alfred H. Saunders?)
Case study: 1990s-C21st showpeople
Cinema use - advertising, 'coming attractions' slides etc.
Cinema use - 1930s 'Brenergraph'
Education (several different angles - school, university, mechanics' institutes, etc.)
Fairground use
Lantern in rural community
Lantern trade press and what it tells us
Lantern use as implied by slide catalogue
Lantern use as illustrated in paintings and engravings
Lecture use: 'celebrity lectures'
Military uses of the lantern
Missionary/evangelical work
Music in lantern shows
Natural history
News reportage
Political or subversive projections
Political/social propaganda - W.T. Stead
Pornographic projection
Services of song
Song slides
Temperance use
Theatre use
Traveling lanternists - from Savoyards to the 1930s?
Use by freemasons/other societies

. . .etc., etc., etc.

The hope is to have this book published by April, 2005. These books have always been made available to society members first and are sometimes difficult for non-members to obtain



LEGO LANTERNS FROM BELGIUM

By Griet and Stefaan Mulier-Van Buggenhout

Here are some pictures of our children Maarten (5) and Astrid (7), who made a magic lantern from Lego blocks. Note the rays that come out of the lantern and the slide that will be guided in to the projector. Maarten made probably the smallest magic lantern in the world. They are very enthusiastic fanatics of the magic lantern shows we give for family and friends.

PART OF THE KEYSTONE VIEW COMPANY COLLECTION

FOREVER LOST TO MEADVILLE

Submitted By Terry Borton

The following article is a re-print from *The Pittsburgh Press*, Sunday, July 31, 1977

Shrewd photography historians at the University of California have snapped up a $1.25 million collection of stereographs from its Meadville home.

The West Coast wheeler-dealers outwitted heavyweights like the Smithsonian Institution, the George Eastman House, and the former Penn-

continued next page

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE . . . SLIDES AND ADVERTISING

By Dr. Meredith B. Jaffe

Warner Brothers released four Nancy Drew movies in 1938 and 1939. A lantern slide, depicted here, advertises the first *Nancy Drew . . . Detective*. Based on the tenth title of the popular girls' series, *The Password to Larkspur Lane* (copyright 1933), this B movie starred Bonita Granville, John Litel, and Frankie Thomas.

The Nancy Drew Mystery Stories were first published in 1930. The first 34 original texts were revised and are no longer in print. The "classic" first 56 titles are available in hardcover and continue to number 175 in paperback.

In March 2004, Simon & Schuster released a new twist on the teenage sleuth with the series *Nancy Drew, Girl Detective*. The four "breeder" titles are written in the first person allowing the reader to place herself in the character of Nancy. One venue of publicity for these books is once again . . . the cinema!

Ed. Note: The editors are seriously downsizing their collection of lantern slides in preparation for a move within the next few years. We recently sold four Nancy Drew coming attraction slides on eBay, including one (shown above) to Dr. Jaffe. The selling price for each slide increased. The last one sold for $605.00

sylvania Governor Raymond P. Shafer, representing Allegheny College in Meadville.

The collection covers the 1850s to the 1950s—history on 3-by6-inch cards. Photographs are paired on the cards, and when viewed through a hooded, hand-held device, merge to produce the appearance of depth.

In grandma's time, the cards were parlor entertainment. And in the classroom, grade school youngsters thrilled to the scenes of far away places.

But radio, movies and even the automobile (see with your own eyes this wondrous thing) made the stereocard less glamorous by mid-century.

The power play began earlier this year when an Iowa-based company attempted to unload the collection, gained in a business merger, for a huge tax write off.

It has ended with the former Meadville-based Keystone View Co. handing over its 90-year-old collection to the University of California's museum of photography.

Officials of Allegheny College are chagrined at the loss of the stereographs. But the man behind the decision said the also-rans did too little, too late, to acquire the 147,000 negatives.

"The University of California simply made it easy for me to give them the collection," explained Gifford Mast, owner of the present Mast-Keystone Co. in Davenport, Iowa, which decided the Meadville negatives were a millstone.

Mast said the other contenders "waited for a silver platter" and should not have been surprised to learn of California's coup.

About 45,000 pounds of negatives were trucked from Meadvilled to a private vault in Fresno recently as a donation to a Museum of Photography at the University of California's Riverside campus.

"You see, the university sent its attorney for my convenience in drawing up the tax deduction," Mast said, "while others indicated they'd take the collection off my hands' as soon as I hired an attorney."

"Why should I have had to go through trouble to donate this tremendously valuable collection? That's why California got it."

Clinching the deal were the university's facilities, a climate-controlled vault to protect the fragile, glass-enclosed negatives.

The Eastman House and Smithsonian, famed for their photographic exhibits, also had suitable vaults, Mast noted, but lacked enthusiasm in their queries.

Allegheny College, a small school without a vault, demonstrated excitement over the collection, Mast admitted, but most of it, unknown to college officials, came after the deal had been sealed.

"I knew something had to be done soon because history would be lost if the negatives weren't preserved in a modern vault," Mast said.

The old Keystone vault, built long ago in the basement of the former Meadville High School building, would not have lasted more than a decade before the temperature and humidity controls began to fail. While California had "money to burn," Allegheny College begged for more time to tap potential funding sources to build a storage room, Mast recalled.

Former Governor Shafer, an alumnus and trustee of the college, was asked to help. He did, mistakenly thinking the cause was not yet lost.

"If I had gotten in on it earlier, I might have been able to change the outcome," Shafer sighed.

Although Keystone in 1935 reportedly had more than two million negatives, the collection dwindled as cramped storage space sparked sales and destruction of prints and negatives.

"They would have been worth a fortune today," said Harold T. Johnson, a 53-year employee of the company, who supervised the recent move.

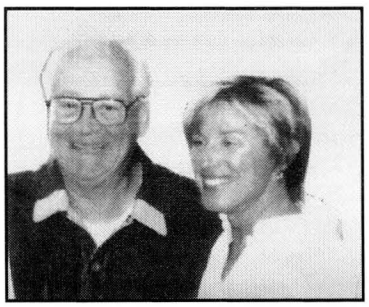
Johnson's father also worked for Keystone for 35 years, dating the family to the company's founding in 1892.

Johnson explained the immenseness of the Keystone collection resulted from the company's purchase of it's competitors after the turn of the century. One such company, Underwood & Underwood, pioneered the use of stereocard sets, numbering 50 or 100 cards per set, portraying American presidents, for example, or national parks, or foreign countries.

Ed. Note: Thanks to Terry Borton for submitting this article. It is of interest to all lantern slide collectors because more of the Keystone negatives were used to produce lantern slides than were used to produce stereo cards. Also, many lantern enthusiasts collect both.

Sad News

Long time Society member Paul Tobias and his wife Paula were killed on March 16 when their small plane piloted by Paul crashed at the Santa Monica airport. The couple were returning from a skiing trip to Mammoth Mountain and attempted to land in foggy weather. Paul was a psychologist and the couple had lived in Malibu, California for many years. He became interested in flying 15 years ago. He was also a photographer and had an extensive camera collection. In 1991 he joined the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada wanting to learn more about lanterns. His wife Paula was an accomplished artist and sculptor. Both were very active in charities in the Los Angeles area. They leave behind hundreds of friends throughout the country.



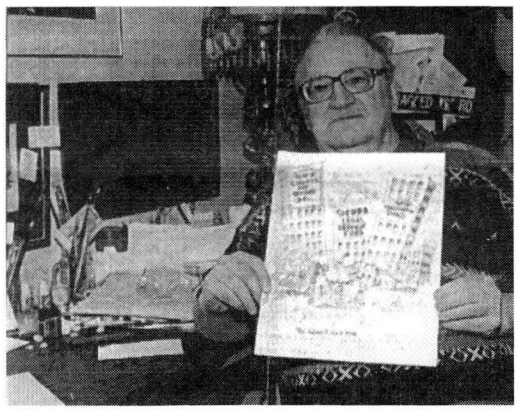
MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by Bob Bishop

"Artist Appointed to Order of Canada"
Excerpted from *The Whitehorse Star,* Friday, January 30, 2004

From his early beginnings sketching on moosehides, Jim Robb has maintained his stature as a classic Yukon artist for almost half a century. It was his considerable contributions to the territory's artistic flavour that Donna and Ed Isaak believed was worthy of honourary recognition.

Robb was appointed this week by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson as a member of the Order of Canada. The announcement came a month after Robb was informed of the honour—but told to keep it confidential until it was made public Tuesday.



It came two years after Isaak submitted her request with some 300 accompanying letters of support by Yukoners of all walks of life.

"I feel that people are starting to recognize that I do some important work," Robb said in an interview after learning of the appointment. "It is some good recognition, I feel. It made me really feel good, you know what I mean?"

The 70-year-old artist came to the Yukon in March 1956 from Quebec. He worked at different jobs—survey work, a carpenter's helper, and a general labourer.

"And after a good two years, I finally said, 'If I am going to make $1.50 a day, I am going to do what I do best, and what I like to do.'"

He began doing charcoal and pastel drawings on moosehides stretched between willow poles by Annie and Harry Silverfox and their son, Billy.

In the 15 years he continued to do the moosehide art, Robb figures hundreds were produced, though he has no number.

Nor is he sure how many ink and watercolour pieces he's produced since taking up those materials in the early 1960s. It's difficult, however, to go almost anywhere in the territory without seeing a Jim Robb work hanging on the wall.

"For over 40 years, James Robb has brought the Yukon's unique past to life in his sketches, watercolour paintings, and photography," reads the citation prepred by the Governor General's office.

"Finding inspiration in such places as Dawson City, remote areas of the Klondike and Whitehorse's Whiskey Flats, he has captured the territory's history through his depictions of buildings, events, and pioneer characters.

"This prolific artist has been widely featured in books, magazines, and newspapers and has supported the local cultural and artistic community."

The citation also notes Robb's willingness to donate works to several charities and organizations over the years.

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Robb said he is particularly proud of his work documenting the different personalities of the Yukon that he found to have flare and colour.

In his three soft-cover publications of *The Colourful Five Per Cent,* the life-long bachelor has featured Yukoners from the mining community to the business community, and everything in between.

"Anybody who was interesting at all, who I thought was a colourful, interesting person," he said of his selection criteria.

They were, and are, said Robb, the colourful five percent.

SUBSTANCE AND SHADOW PICTURES

From Lindsay Lambert

Here is a set of cartoons from *Harper's Monthly* , XVI, 94 (March, 1858). Although they are not magic lantern slides, shadow pictures are definitely an optical amusement and Lindsay suggests they would make a good slide sequence for anyone who care to make transparencies from them.

MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE U.S. & CANADA:

NORTHWEST CORNER
By Sharon Koch

Minutes - November 15, 2003

For a change of pace, we met for lunch at Chang's Mongolian Grill in Renton, and then proceeded to The Lakeshore, Alice Koch's residence. Present for the meeting were John and Betty Potter, Ron and Dorothy Easterday, Mike and Sharon Koch, Alice Koch, Larry Cederblom, Shel Izen, Lindsay Lambert, and Ralph and Judie Shape.

President Ralph called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Minutes were dispensed with, and the Financial Report read. Ralph and the group welcomed visiting member, Lindsay Lambert, from Ottawa, Canada. It was reported that the few received responses to Homer Peabody's research and suggestions for a change in election policy were negative. The present method of mail ballots will remain in place. Nomination forms will be sent out with the Member Renewal, to be returned to Bob Hall.

Email

Sue received an email from a potential new member. TimShinners@aol.com. Also, Stuart McFall, wanted a value for his 8 slide set about the first pipe. John Reusing, director of the Public Library in Cincinnati has 50,000 slides they no longer want to own. Ron Easterday will pursue this when there at Christmas. Staci Meyers, from Marysville, KS needs Dickens slides for a show. Alice suggested contacting Blanche Owens.

Miscellaneous

There will be an auction November 22 of between 800 to 1000 slides on the Internet. Ralph also received a pamphlet and copy of Laura Minici's new 3D book, *The Subtle Charm of*

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Northwest Meeting continued

Stereoscopy. Sharon will take orders and order copies for the group.

Gazette

The next issue of the *Gazette* will include the annual financial statement, dues renewal, and nomination form, and the Christmas reprint, supplied by Jack Judson. Mike suggested that the *Gazette* be put online. There are some complications. Would the website handle that many pages? Larry stated that we could do an electrical pdf for individuals who desire them. Larry also suggested that the society could give the members a one-page color 8 1/2 by 11-inch magic lantern calendar for a modest price. This was applauded and approved. Sharon asked if a society decal could be produced and given to the membership. Larry will look into the price.

Convention

Sharon will send the recommendations received from the last convention to Jack Judson. A hospitality room would be highly recommended.

Meeting Schedule

The Northwest group decided on the following 2004 meeting dates/locations:

February 29 - Bob and Sue Hall
May 2 - Ron and Dorothy Easterday
August 15 - Shel Izen
November 14 - Mike and Sharon Koch

It was mentioned that Bob Bishop has been missed by all. Although unable to attend meetings, he is working on a new book.

Show and Tell

Bob Doran showed the page from the *Scientific American*, illustrating the new lantern, the Peristyle. Lindsay suggested that we offer a membership pin. Pratt Institute might be able to provide. Ralph and Judie will look into the idea.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Lindsay showed his new assortment of slides, some made with overhead transparency stock, computer inkjet imagery, and direct to film imagery and graphics. Ron shared his Veteran's Day program, and Shel had images of Chicago, a French glacier with tourists, Mount Rainier, 2nd Avenue, Seattle, Sunkist slides, and a horse drawn combine. John showed his Mount Rainier and Panama slides. Great show by all!

Sharon Koch, Secretary

MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY OF THE U.S. & CANADA

Minutes - February 29, 2004

The meeting was held at the home of Bob and Sue Hall. Those attending were John and Betty Potter, Ralph and Judie Shape, Mike and Sharon Koch, Alice Koch, Larry Cederblom, Bob Doran, Ron and Dorothy Easterday, and guest Mike Murando.

Minutes and treasurer's report were read.

Election

A letter was received from Homer Peabody, who agreed that Bob Hall should be in charge of the officer nominations. Bob will compile and send out ballots to the membership.

Email

Ralph forwarded to members an email by Henry Verden, who is looking for a light source and carrier for a Williams, Brown and Earle lantern he recently purchased. Laura Minici wanted some information on what kind of paint was used on American slides. No one present could supply that information. Brian Ginns auction closes on March 6.

Gazette
Everyone loved the December booklet, *Lantern Manipulation*, from the Judson Collection, which was sent with the *Gazette*. The colorful 2004 calendar by Larry Cederblom and Publication Index also enclosed with the mailing received many accolades.

Sue called to everyone's attention to an article by Rick Martyna in the next *Gazette*. He is willing to store and distribute transcribed slide readings which are donated by MLS members. This Slide Reading Library would be available as photocopies to order for a fee to be set by the society. This would be a wonderful opportunity to share.

Miscellaneous

With the same idea of sharing knowledge, Bob Doran suggested that we put some technical information on our website.

Alice gave information on the Museum of Flight, which will include magic lantern slides on aeronautical subjects from World War I.

John and Betty Potter will be giving a lantern program to the Buckley/Enumclaw Historical Societies in March.

Mike Koch will help choose the book for the Joe Koch Award at the convention.

The Camera Show will be Saturday, April 24th. Larry will have a questionnaire there to give people to help with the lantern history, if they happen to volunteer information.

Larry gave Bob Bishop a list of questions about his initial interest and continuing passion for magic lanterns. We discussed sending a questionnaire to older members, and it was sug-

gested that there should be a President's Letter to accompany the questionnaire. Also, we could use tape recorders and video if possible.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Once we were settled in the Halls' Magic Lantern Theatre, we viewed a Charlie Chaplin silent film on Mike Murando's 1934 standard model 21 Special Victor 16mm projector Anamatigraph, which he has lovingly restored. Sharon showed (with some help) her new music slides, and John had some that he had made by scanning on a laser printer.

WANTED

Slides of the Philippines
Please contact: Esperanze Bantug, 643 Teredo Drive, Redwood City, CA 94065, pennoy@hotmail.com

EasternMarket.net OPEN Ebay ONLINE AUCTIONS

By Tom Rall

EasternMarket.net Members,
Washington, DC (March 12)—Easternmarket.net has taken a "next" step in bringing Easthern Market exhibitors online.

Easternmarket.net is now offering merchandise for auction on eBay under the seller name: easternmarketnet. A link is available at the top right of the easternmarket.net home page.

"Securing the easternmarketnet seller name and designing a home page on eBay comleted a long envisioned step toward E-commerce," said Tom Rall, owner of easternmarket.net and manager of The Flea Market at Eastern Market on Sundays.

Ed. Note: Since Tom has a stall at the Market selling lantern slides, perhaps he will post some for sale on the Market web site.

MAGIC LANTERN SOCIETY - TREASURER'S REPORT

May 2, 2004

Balance as of
February 25, 2004 - $6,865.40

Income

Bank Interest - $1.13
Member dues - $590.32

Total Income - $591.45

Expenses

Bergh Memorial $100.00
Gazette - $446.43

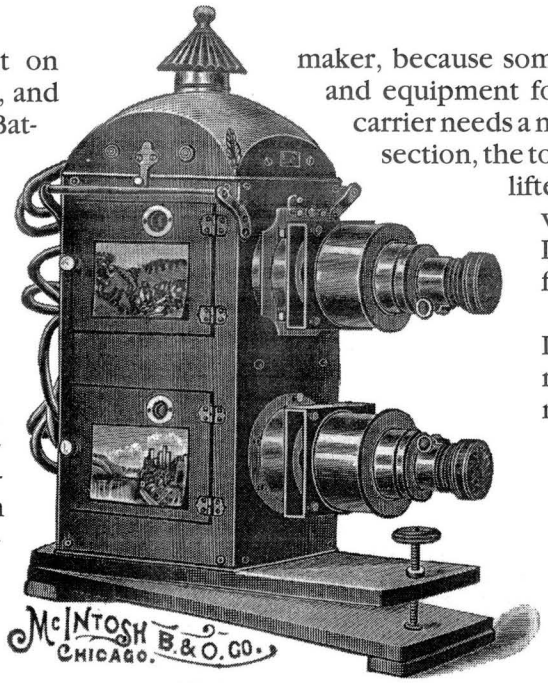
Total expenses - $546.43

Bank balance as of
May 2, 2004 - $6,910.42

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Lindsay Lambert

I was looking through a text on electro-therapeutics that I have, and discovered a dandy McIntosh Battery & Optical Co. biunial advertisement which I hadn't noticed before. It was the last page of a series of ads at the back. I have enclosed a couple of photocopies, which you might like to print in the *Gazette.*



THE ROYAL PHOTO-OPTICON.

McIntosh Battery and Optical Co.
DEALERS, IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURING SCIENTISTS.

I am presently out of commission for shows, as my slide-carrier is in the hands of a violin bow-maker for repair. It was broken when I got it, and my patch-up repairs had reached the end of their utility. I have unfortunately had to turn down a couple of engagements.

I went to a violin bow-maker, because someone in that trade has the right skills and equipment for the precision milling of wood. My carrier needs a new bottom channel strip for the sliding section, the top strips for the same piece, and the two lifters. He's making them in pernambuco wood, the stuff that bows are made of. It's straight-grained, hard and tough, yet flexible.

I wish that I could just order a new replacement, but I don't have a time machine post-box.